

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. The provisional allowance of claims 4, 5, 7-9, 11-13 and 17-20 is noted with appreciation. Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3, 6, 10 AND 14-16 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 6, 10 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art DE 100 64 599 (Müller et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,741,777 (Jewell et al.). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

- i. Müller et al. do not teach a second imaging system configured to image light emitted by the transmitting component from the intermediate plane onto an end surface of an optical waveguide, as recited in claim 1.*

Claim 1 is directed to a bidirectional transmitting and receiving device that comprises first and second imaging systems. ***The second imaging system is configured to image light*** that is emitted by the transmitting component ***from an intermediate plane onto an end surface of an optical waveguide.*** Müller et al. do not teach this feature. As illustrated in Fig. 1 of the cited reference, Müller et al. disclose a lens 7 that images light from a plane containing the transmitting component 2 to an optical fiber 6. ***The lens 7 does not image such light to the optical fiber 6 from an intermediate plane as recited in claim 1,*** and the secondary reference (Jewell et al.) does not remedy the deficiency in Müller et al. Therefore claim 1 is non-obvious over the cited art; accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

- ii. Jewell et al. do not teach a first imaging system configured to image light from the transmitting component onto an intermediate plane on which the receiving component is located, as recited in claim 1.***

The bidirectional transmitting and receiving device of claim 1 further comprises a first imaging system that is configured to image light from the transmitting component onto an intermediate plane on which the receiving component is located. The Office Action concedes that Müller et al. do not teach this feature, but asserts that Jewell et al. disclose a first imaging system. It is respectfully submitted that this assertion is incorrect.

As illustrated in Fig. 8 of Jewell et al., a lens 24 is provided to image light from a transducer 26 operating as a transmitting light source to a waveguide 32, however, no imaging is provided by such lens to an intermediate plane on which a receiving component is located as claimed. For example, if the transducer 26 is interpreted as a transmitting component, the lens 24 does not image light onto an intermediate plane on which a receiving component is located as claimed. Rather, the light is image to the waveguide 32. Alternatively, if the transducer 26 is interpreted as a receiving component, the light imaged by the first imaging system does not pass light through, or at a side of, the receiving component as claimed. Therefore in either interpretation of the cited reference, Jewell et al. do not teach or suggest a first imaging system as recited in claim 1, and thus claim 1 is non-obvious over the cited art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least this additional reason.

- iii. Jewell et al. do not teach a first imaging system disposed between a transmitting component and a receiving component, wherein the receiving component is disposed between the transmitting component and an optical waveguide, as recited in claim 14.**

Claim 14 is directed to a bidirectional optical system comprising a transmitting component, a receiving component, and an optical waveguide. The optical system further comprises **a first imaging system that is disposed between the transmitting component and the receiving component**. The first imaging system is configured to imaging light from the transmitting component onto an intermediate plane at which the receiving component is located. As conceded in the Office Action, Müller et al. do not teach a first imaging system. It is respectfully submitted that Jewell et al. also do not teach a first imaging system as recited in claim 14. Rather, Jewell et al. teach a lens 24 is disposed between the transducer 26 and the waveguide 32. Accordingly, Jewell et al. do not teach a first imaging system configured in an optical system as recited in claim 14. Therefore claim 14 is non-obvious over the cited art, and withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

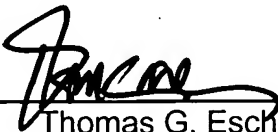
II. CONCLUSION

The claims currently under consideration are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should any fees be due as a result of the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account Number 50-1733, MAIKP125US.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: October 4, 2005


Christine Gillroy